MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 JUNE 1963

The Commission met, pursuant to notice at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, presiding.

Present were: Members - David E. Finley
Felix W. de Weldon
Peter Hurd
Douglas W. Orr
William G. Perry
Hideo Sasaki
Ralph Walker

Staff: L.R.Wilson, Secretary
C.H.Atherton,Asst.Secretary
C.L.Martin, Counsel
Susan E. Bennett, Admin.Asst.
Myra Younker, Editor
Recorder: Leone M. Vialpando

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Continued Treatment Building No. 10 Proposed Design

The Commission conferred with Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, and Mr. Paul Brott, architect, on the proposed design of the building.

Mr. Brott explained that the building would serve three functions: as a nine-story dormitory building for patients in their final phase of treatment; as a rehabilitation facility housing educational and occupational rehabilitation activities, and recreational and administrative functions to be housed in a one-story wing. Mr. Brott then explained the site and design of the building on drawings and plans.

The members suggested that an existing garage near the approach road to the main entrance of the building should be removed as soon as possible and that the parking area in front of the building be landscaped. They also suggested that a brick other than the proposed buff color be used, and indicated a preference for a rose-hued color which would harmonize with the nearby Dix Pavilion.

The Commission voted to approve the preliminary plans in general, as presented. The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the

Administrator of General Services Administration setting forth the views of the Commission. EXHIBIT A

B. National Institutes of Health, Biologics Standards Building - Proposed Design

Mr. Sigmund Blum and Mr. James Livingston, architects of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, presented plans and drawings and scale models of the proposed building.

Mr. Livingston explained that the function of the building would be the testing of the purity, potency and safety of all biological products produced in the United States. Mr. Blum explained the site of the building, the interior features and the exterior design.

In their discussion with the architects the members expressed the opinion that the brick selected should be a color which would continue the general tone of nearby existing buildings. They thought that the building was well-designed and would relate well with adjoining buildings.

The design was approved as presented, and the Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the views of the Commission. EXHIBIT B

c. Gallaudet College, Mens' and Womens' Dormitories - Proposed Designs

Mr. John Samperton, architect, presented plans for Mens' and Womens' dormitory buildings to be erected on the campus of Gallaudet College for the Deaf. Mr. Samperton explained the design and site plan with drawings and elevations.

In the discussion the members' chief concern was the relationship of the buildings to one another. They expressed the opinion that the L-shape spacing of the buildings, with the mens' dormitory over-lapping one end of the womens' dormitory, would create a crowded condition which might be avoided if the buildings could be moved away from each other. There was a general discussion of means whereby a better spacing of the buildings could be achieved. Mr. Samperton agreed to study the problem further and to submit a revised site plan as soon as possible.

The Commission gave its general approval to the design subject to submission of a revised plan.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the views of the Commission. EXHIBIT C

d. Federal Office Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, Exterior Sculpture-Proposed Design

Mr. Snyder presented photographs of a study model of an eagle

by Marshall Fredericks, sculptor, for the exterior sculpture of the new Federal Office Building in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The model was of a stylized eagle in flight, with its legs extended and grasping a branch of laurel, and arrows in its talons. The members approved the model in general with the recommendation that the head be slightly raised so as to more closely resemble an eagle in flight.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the views of the Commission. EXHIBIT D

2. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

Episcopal Church, 6th and M Streets, S.W. - Proposed Design

Mr. Stanley Sherman, Chief, Project Design, Redevelopment Land Agency, and Mr. Alexander Cochran, architect, conferred with the Commission on the proposed design for the church.

Mr. Cochran presented a scale model of the proposed building and explained the basis of the design and the materials of construction.

The members expressed their general approval of the plan, but were of the opinion that the silhouette of the roof, as effected by the sharp break in the ridge line above the baptistry, should be restudied. They suggested that this element of the design would be improved if the point of intersection between the pitch sloping upwards to the gabled ends of the building were raised higher. Mr. Cochran agreed to submit further studies of the roof.

The Commission approved the general design subject to further study of the roof. The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the views of the Commission. EXHIBIT E

3. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

a. Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial - Proposed Design of Sculptural Group

Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, National Capital Region, Mr. Hilyard Robinson, architect, and Mr. Robert Berks, sculptor, met with the Commission to discuss the proposed design of a sculptural group of three figures for the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial.

Mr. Robinson read a prepared statement in which he outlined the history of the memorial, and described the architectural design of the base and sub-base.

Mr. Berks described the symbolism of the design and how it was conceived. He also expressed the hope that the sixty foot base of the memorial would be used as an outdoor amphitheater by the surrounding community.

The members expressed their approval of the design of the sculptural group as presented. They also approved the location of the memorial in Lincoln Square, but reserved final action pending the submission of a specific site plan.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Director of the National Park Service setting forth the views of the Commission. EXHIBIT F

b. Thomas Jefferson Memorial - Illumination of Site

Having witnessed an experimental exterior lighting demonstration at the Memorial the previous night, which was also attended by the Secretary of the Interior and Director of the National Park Service, the Commission discussed their views with Mr. Richard Kelley, lighting expert.

The members agreed that the general floodlighting of the building which they had witnessed was much too bright and that a light source of lesser intensity and located to one side would be more appropriate. They also agreed that accent lights on the periphery and some additional lighting of the interior and the Jefferson statue would produce a desirable total effect.

The members concluded that the Commission should recommend that Mr. Kelly be retained as a special consultant by the National Park Service on this problem.

The Chairman was authorized to prepare a letter setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT G

4. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses & Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Act: S.L.2615, Proposed Apartment Building at 2700 Adams Mill Road, N.W.

Mr. Julian P. Green, Assistant Superintendent of Licenses and Permits, Mr. W.B.Shapiro, owner and builder, and Mr. William Shoemaker, architect, conferred with the Commission on the design of a proposed 1500 unit apartment building to be erected on a site on Adams Mill Road adjoining the National Zoological Park on the south and overlooking Rock Creek Park on the west. The Commission had visited the site on the previous day.

Mr. Shapiro described the site and the design, using plans, drawings and elevations.

In the discussion the members expressed the opinion that the proposed building was not architecturally acceptable to the Commission because of the effect it would have on the Zoological Park and Rock Creek Park. They asked if the architect had considered reducing the height of the portion

of the building fronting the public domain and raising it in the rear. Mr. Shapiro replied that under the zoning regulations he could not change the height without losing the additional stories he would be permitted to build because of the sloping site.

Mr. Walker moved that the application be disapproved, and Mr. Orr seconded the motion. Mr. Shapiro then asked that a vote not be taken that day in order to permit Mr. Shoemaker to submit new studies of the design to comply with the Commission's recommendations. The second to the motion to disapprove the application was thereupon withdrawn by Mr. Orr.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Department of Licenses and Inspections stating that the Commission could not approve the design as presented, but had agreed to consider a new design if submitted by July 6th, which would be the last day of the 30 day time limit imposed by the Shipstead-Luce Act within which the Commission could act on the application. EXHIBIT H

Thereupon, at 12"45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin, Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 JUNE 1963

AM

9:30 I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

9:35 General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

1. St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Continued Treatment Bldg. No. 10 - Proposed Design

   (Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service; Mr. Paul Brott, Architect)

2. National Institutes of Health, Biologics Standards Building - Proposed Design

   (Mr. Snyder; Mr. Sigmund Blum, architect)

3. Gallaudet College, Men's and Women's Dormitory - Proposed Design

   (Mr. Snyder; Mr. John Samperton, architect)

10:30 District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

Episcopal Church, 6th and M Streets, S.W. - Proposed Design

(Mr. Herbert L. Tyson, Chief, Land Disposition Division, RLA; Reverend Alfred R. Shands; Mr. Alexander Cochran, architect)

11:00 Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial - Proposed Design of Sculptural Group

(Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director, National Park Service; Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, National Capital Region; Mr. Hilyard R. Robinson, architect)

11:30 District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses & Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Act: S.L.2615, Proposed Apartment House at 2700 Adams Mill Road, N.W.

(Mr. Julian P. Green, Assistant Superintendent of Licenses and Permits; Mr. W.B. Shapiro, Owner and Designer; Mr. W. Shoemaker, architect)

ADJOURN

27 June 1963

Dear Mr. Boutin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on June 18, considered a preliminary design for Continued Treatment Building #10, to be located on the grounds of St. Elizabeth's Hospital immediately north of the Dix Building and fronting on Nichols Avenue, S.W. Mr. Paul Brett, representing the firm of George Ewing Company, architects of the project, and Mr. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, presented the design.

The proposed building would consist of two principal parts: a single story and basement wing housing cafeterias, classrooms and service elements, and a nine story rectangular apartment-type structure containing individual nursing units. The structure would be of reinforced concrete frame with inset brick panels located within the bays formed by the exposed exterior columns and floor slabs.

The members of the Commission approved the plans in general as presented. They thought, however, that the buff and orange color scheme suggested for the panels and spandrels would contrast too strongly with the adjoining buildings, which are predominantly of red brick; and they recommended that a color scheme be developed more closely related to the color of the adjoining buildings.

The Commission also recommended that the existing garage structure adjoining the approach road be removed and that trees and other landscaping elements be placed around and within the parking area. Use of both would considerably enhance the view of the new hospital building as seen from Nichols Avenue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Bernard Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. J.Rowland Snyder, Director,
Design Division, Public
Buildings Service

27 June 1949

27 June 1963

Dear Mr. Boutin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on June 18, considered a design for Biologics Standards Building #29A, to be erected as an addition to an existing biologics laboratory on the grounds of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Mr. Sigmund Blum and Mr. James Livingston, representing the firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, architects of the project, and Mr. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, presented the design using drawings and models.

The four elevations of the three story building were to be divided uniformly by tall narrow brick piers spaced five feet on center with windows and spandrels placed between. The entire building would rest on a brick podium, whose batter made it a prominent feature of the design and provided a transition between the building and the sloping site. A glass enclosed corridor approximately seventy feet long would connect the building at basement and first floor levels to the west end of an existing laboratory.

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the design as presented. They thought that the building itself was well-designed, and that it was carefully related spatially to adjoining buildings and would fit in with its surroundings. The Commission recommended that the selection of the brick should be carefully studied in order to continue the general tone of existing buildings in the area, with sample wall sections being constructed near adjacent buildings for the purpose of comparison.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Bernard Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. J.Rowland Snyder, Director,
Design Division, Public Buildings
Service

EXHIBIT B

24 June 1963

Dear Mr. Boutin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on 18 June, considered a preliminary design for two identical four story dormitory buildings to be erected on the campus of Gallaudet College. Mr. John Samperton, the architect of the project, and Mr. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, presented the plans.

The members of the Commission considered that the proposed architectural treatment and materials were in accord with the development of other new buildings on the campus, and they approved the design. There was some concern about the siting of the two buildings, however, especially in regard to the relationship at right angles between the adjacent ends at the northwest corner. The Commission recommended that a study be made to shift the relation of the two dormitories slightly off the right angle and to move them away from each other in order to reduce the appearance of rigidity and to relieve a pinched spatial quality existing in the present plan.

Mr. Samperton agreed to resubmit revised studies of the site plan in the next few days. We will notify you of the Commission's action as soon as the members' views on the revised site studies are received.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Bernard Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

Copy to: Mr. Rowland Snyder,
Director, Design Division,
Public Buildings Service

EXHIBIT C

July 8, 1963

Dear Mr. Snyder:

I am writing to confirm the Commission's action on June 18th, regarding intermediate studies by Marshall Fredericks of the sculpture for the new Federal Office Building in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The design was approved in general, with the recommendation that the head of the eagle be slightly raised, more in the manner typical of flight.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Mr. J. Rowland Snyder
Director, Design Division
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

18 June 1963

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on June 18, considered the proposed design for St. Augustine's Chapel to be erected at the intersection of Maine Avenue, Water Street and M Street, S.W. Mr. Alexander Cochran, architect of the project, and Mr. Stanley Sherman, Chief, Project Design, Redevelopment Land Agency, presented the design.

The architect explained his conception for a single story structure containing a sanctuary on the ground floor with an assembly room and meeting rooms in a basement. The exterior design featured low curved side walls of brick surmounted by a gabled roof structure sheathed with lead-coated copper, similar to the roof of the nearby Arena Theater located across M Street, S.W. to the north.

The members of the Commission thought that the general design was satisfactory, but were concerned with the ridge line on the roof, which was quite sharply depressed at approximately the third point of the length, with the pitch sloping upwards to both the north and south gable ends of the building. They recommended that this feature be studied more thoroughly, lessening the abruptness of the change in slope.

The Commission also requested that samples of materials be submitted for inspection when final drawings have been prepared.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Phil A. Doyle
Executive Director
D.C.Redevelopment Land Agency
919 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

20 June 1963

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on 18 June 1963, considered the sculptor's scale model of a memorial to Mary McLeod Bethune, for a proposed site at the east end of Lincoln Square (U.S.Reservation #14).

Mr. Robert Berks, sculptor, and Mr. Hilyard Robinson, architect of the project, presented the design. Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service, and Mr. Robert W. Andrews, Chief Landscape Architect, National Capital Region, represented the National Park Service at the meeting.

Mr. Robinson read a short statement describing the significance of the memorial; and Mr. Berks explained his conception for the design which consisted of three standing figures, portraying Mrs. Bethune extending a scroll toward a boy and a girl who reach forward to grasp it. The group would be of bronze and would be mounted on a granite pedestal approximately 5'6" above a circular stepped platform. The statue would be 14' high, measured from the base of the pedestal.

The members of the Commission approved the design of the sculptural group as presented. It was their opinion that the conception of the memorial was a particularly appropriate expression of Mrs. Bethune's life and work and would have wide appeal, as well as being a work of high sculptural competence.

A location in Lincoln Square was also approved in general as a site for the memorial, but final action was reserved pending further development by the architect, in conjunction with Park Service architects, of a specific site plan and location.

In a visit to Lincoln Square prior to the meeting, the Commission noticed several aspects of the park which would need to be carefully considered in the placement of the Bethune Memorial, such as the size and spacing of the many large trees, and the memorial to Abraham Lincoln as the Emancipator at the west end of the Square.

The Commission requests that preliminary studies be submitted to the Commission for its review before the adoption by other agencies of a landscape and site plan for the memorial.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Conrad Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT F

EXHIBIT F

20 June 1963

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The members of the Commission were glad to meet with Honorable Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, yourself, Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service, and other representatives of the National Park Service, to view experimental exterior lighting conducted at the Jefferson Memorial on Monday evening, June 17; and to hear the views of Mr. Kenneth Cobb, Mr. Sterling Eagleton, and Mr. Richard Kelly, who are all qualified technicians in the illumination of buildings.

The Commission, after viewing combinations of lighting effects on the dome and portico from several points of view, observed that the general floodlighting of the building was much too bright and tended to diminish the form to such an extent that it seriously detracted from, rather than enhanced, the appearance of the memorial. The members of the Commission were of the opinion that a directional source of light of lesser intensity, and located to one side, would be more appropriate to preserve the form of the memorial. Accents would be created which would reinforce the form of the structure in much the same way as natural lighting does. Additional fill-in lighting to minimize extraneous shadows might also be desirable behind the columns of the portico and around the entire colonade. This illumination should be of a subtle nature, preferably a low source reflecting off the surrounding grass. Complimentary lighting of the interior and the statue of Thomas Jefferson should also be included, in order to produce a total effect that will preserve and enhance the form and integrity of this memorial.

The members of the Commission had the opportunity to discuss these ideas at length with Mr. Kelly on the morning of June 18 in the Commission's offices. His proposal to light the memorial would be much along the line mentioned above, which he felt was entirely feasible and could be achieved without undue cost. Mr. Kelly has had wide experience with architectural illumination, having designed installations for important buildings such as Dulles International Airport, the new Philharmonic Hall in New York, the Mall area around Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and many others.

EXHIBIT G

The Commission believes that the lighting scheme for the Jefferson Memorial should be primarily considered as a design in itself, and not merely a problem of floodlighting an existing building. Mr. Kelly is highly qualified to approach the problem in this manner and the Commission strongly recommends that his services be secured by the National Park Service. I hope you will let us know of the selection of the expert adviser before any announcement is made.

The Commission would also like to be kept informed of progress in formulating plans for this project.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

June 18, 1963

Dear Mr. Green:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on June 18th, reviewed the proposed plans for the three interconnected apartment buildings to be erected at 2700 Adams Mill Road as designed by Mr. William Shoemaker, architect, and Mr. J. B. Shapiro, owner and builder. These drawings were submitted under Shipstead-Luce application No. S. L. 2615, and received from your office by the Commission on June 6th. The proposed buildings are to be erected on a site on Adams Mill Road bordering the National Zoological Park on the south and overlooking Rock Creek Park on the west. The proposed building, as designed, would be over 700 feet long. It would be eight stories high on Adams Mill Road and rise to fifteen stories on the western border above Rock Creek Park.

After careful study of the drawings, the Commission concluded that it could not approve the buildings as designed. The architect members made suggestions as to how the design might be improved and the owner, Mr. Shapiro, and the architect, Mr. Shoemaker, agreed they would study these suggestions and submit a new design. The Commission pointed out that the new design must be submitted in time to be reviewed by the Commission and returned to your office by July 6th within the thirty-day period as required by law. If the new designs are not received in time, S. L. 2615 will be returned to you with the Commission's recommendation that the permit not be issued for the construction of the buildings as presently designed.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green
Assistant Superintendent
of Licenses and Permits
106 District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

EXHIBIT H